

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 06206 301515Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 /028 W
-----114255 301938Z /46

R 301355Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3428

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6206

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP(HOLLINGS, ERNEST), PBOR, PN, PQ
SUBJECT: CODEL HOLLINGS POSTMORTEM

REF: PANAMA 6050

1. SENATOR ERNEST F. HOLLINGS (D-S.C.) AND WILLIAM L. SCOTT (R-VA.) WERE IN PANAMA FOR APPROXIMATELY 26 HOURS AUGUST 26-27. THIS WAS THE LAST STOP IN A 12-DAY TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA. THE SENATORS' PARTY INCLUDED J. STANLEY KIMMITT, SECRETARY OF THE SENATE; WILLIAM HILDENBRAND, SENATE SECRETARY FOR THE MINORITY, AND ROBERT DOCKERY OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF.

2. THE SENATORS MET WITH AMBASSADOR JORDEN, CANAL ZONE GOVERNOR PARFITT, SOUTHCOM CINC LT. GEN MCAULIFFE, AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF THE CANAL ZONE, PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT LAKAS, PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA AND OTHER PANAMANIAN AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN.

3. SENATOR SCOTT MADE CLEAR THROUGHOUT HIS VISIT THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY. SENATOR HOLLINGS NEVER COMMITTED HIMSELF, BUT SHOWED A CONSIDERABLE CURIOSITY ABOUT POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN PANAMA AND THE PROBABLE EFFECT OF A NEW TREATY HERE. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR, GOVERNOR PARFITT AND GEN. MCAULIFFE WHETHER THEY SUPPORTED THE TREATY. ALL RESPONDED THAT THEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 06206 301515Z

DID, THOUGH GOVERNOR PARFITT SAID HE HAD RESERVATIONS BECAUSE OF CERTAIN APPARENT DEFICIENCIES WHICH HE FELT WOULD MAKE OPERATION OF THE CANAL MORE DIFFICULT. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE LACK OF ANY PROVISION IN THE TREATY FOR EARLY RETIREMENT OR JOB GUARANTEES FOR EMPLOYEES. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS STILL CONSIDERING ITS

POSITION ON THESE QUESTIONS. AMBASSADOR JORDEN SUPPORTED THE GOVERNOR IN HIS VIEW THAT THE TREATY PACKAGE SHOULD PROVIDE FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AND JOB GUARANTEES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD JUST HEARD BY PHOONE THAT THE TREATY MIGHT INCLUDE A PROVISION FOR EARLY RETIREMENT.

4. OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST TO SENATOR HOLLINGS WERE:

1) HOW THE UNITED STATES WOULD PAY FOR ADDED BENEFITS TO PANAMA UNDER THE TREATY, 2) COMMUNIST AND OTHER LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN PANAMA, 3) THE VULNERABILITY OF THE CANAL TO SABOTAGE, AND 4) GUARANTEES OF UNITED STATES ACCESS TO THE CANAL AFTER THE YEAR 2000.

5. SENATORS SCOTT AND HOLLINGS FOUND MOST U.S. RESIDENTS OF THE ZONE DISSATISFIED WITH THE TREATY AND WITH THE LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH THEM PRIOR TO SIGNING. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WITH WHOM THEY MET SAID THE NEW TREATY SHOULD BE APPROVED BY THE SENATE.

6. PRESIDENT LAKAS WAS, AS USUAL, IMPRESSIVE IN HIS APPEAL FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CANAL PROBLEM IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. -PANAMANIAN FRIENDSHIP. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, SENATOR HOLLINGS TOLD LAKAS THAT HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 06206 301515Z

GLAD HE DID NOT HAVE TO RUN AGAINST LAKAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

7. EXCEPT FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SENATORS' CALL ON PRESIDENT LAKAS, THE PRESS DID NOT REPORT THE VISIT. HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF WIRE SERVICE STORIES FROM BUENOS AIRES, "CRITICA" ALREADY HAD EDITORIALY LAID VIOLENT HANDS ON BOTH SENATORS. CRITICA IN ITS AUGUST 24 EDITORIAL OPINED THAT PANAMANIAN SHOULD LOOK UPON SENATOR SCOTT'S ILK AS "VERMINZ WITH " A MICROSCOPIC BRAIN". SCOTT AND HOLLINGS WERE DESCRIBED AS "ACOLYTES" OF SENATOR THURMOND IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST THE TREATY.

8. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT SENATOR HOLLINGS IS SOMEWHAT INCLINED TOWARD SUPPORT FOR THE TREATY. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ANY MATERIAL WHICH WOULD HELP HIM TO COUNTER ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE TREATY, PARTICULARLY THE CLAIM OF OPPONENTS THAT APPROVAL OF THE TREATY WOULD SOMEHOW MEAN TURNING THE CANAL OVER TO THE COMMUNISTS. KIMITT TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE BELIEVES HOLLINGS WILL CARRY FOUR OR FIVE VOTES WITH HIM ON THE TREATY AND THAT, THEREFORE,

HIS VOTE COULD BE CRUCIAL. HOWEVER THAT MAY
BE, SENATOR HOLLINGS SHOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL ATTENTION
IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR RATIFICATION IN THE SENATE. (FYI.
HOLLINGS SAID THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HOLD
THE SIGNING ON SEPTEMBER 7, THE DATE CONGRESS RECON-
VENES, SINCE THE SENATE SHOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE
FORMAL SIGNING. HE SUGGESTED SEPTEMBER 8. IT SEEMS
TO US, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE
SOME MINIMUM CONSULTATION WITH THE SENATE, AT LEAST
TO DELIVER ADVANCE COPIES OF THE TREATY, ON
SEPTEMBER 7 PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY THAT EVENING.)
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA06206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0918
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977088/aaaaagno.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6c65635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION A
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 6050
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1657344
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL HOLLINGS POSTMORTEM
TAGS: OREP, PBOR, PN, PQ, (HOLLINGS, ERNEST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6c65635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009